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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

MELTHON BRANCH,

Defendant.

CASE NO.: 21-MJ-70787 MAG
13-CR-00403 CRB

~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER DETAINING DEFENDANT
MELTHON BRANCH PRIOR TO TRIAL

On May 7, 2021, defendant Melthon Branch was charged in a Criminal Complaint with Felon in Possession of Ammunition, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1). *See* Case No. 21-MJ-70787 MAG. The defendant made an initial appearance on May 12, 2021, at which time the government moved for his pretrial detention. The Court also arraigned the defendant on a Form 12 violation, based on the same conduct charged by complaint. The Court held the detention hearing on May 17, 2021. The defendant was present and represented by Jodi Linker, Esq. At that time, the parties submitted proffers and arguments, summarized briefly below.

The government argued that the defendant is a danger to community citing the defendant's ~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER DETAINING DEFENDANT MELTHON BRANCH PRIOR TO TRIAL
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1 criminal record and continued use and possession of weapons and firearms. The government
2 highlighted that the defendant has obtained three convictions associated with weapon use and/or
3 possession within the last 10 years. The defendant was convicted in 2011 for Assault with a Deadly
4 Weapon and this conviction constitutes a crime of violence. Stemming from a separate arrest, the
5 defendant was convicted also in 2011 for Carrying a Concealed Weapon. This conviction involved a
6 loaded firearm. In 2014, the defendant was convicted for Felon in Possession of a Firearm and
7 sentenced to 71 months before the Honorable Judge Charles R. Breyer. The defendant was on probation
8 for this conviction at the time of the present case. The government further highlighted the defendant's
9 2013 conviction for Felon in Possession of a Firearm, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1); where a
10 shooting occurred. The government also proffered that the defendant is a suspected member of the
11 Towerside gang.

12 Through defense counsel, Mr. Branch proffered that the factors supporting pretrial detention can
13 be mitigated by a custodian; his wife. The defendant could reside with his wife in Stockton, CA away
14 from San Francisco and any gang activity in Towerside. The defendant, through counsel, further denied
15 that the defendant is a part of any gang. Defense further proffered that the shooting referenced in the
16 presentencing report from the defendant's 2014 conviction was not a part of the defendant's plea.

17 Probation agreed with the government and suggested Mr. Branch be detained awaiting trial,
18 pointing to the defendant's gang affiliation, continued possession of firearms, and other violations of
19 probation. Probation also proffered that Mr. Branch is on parole in Alameda county and is not permitted
20 to live outside the county. Further, probation conducted a visit at the defendant's wife residence and
21 still determined that detention is warranted.

22 Upon consideration of probation, the court file, and the parties' proffers at the detention hearing,
23 the Court finds by clear and convincing evidence that, the defendant is a danger to the community and
24 lesser restrictive means will not assure the safety of the community. Accordingly, the Court orders the
25 defendant detained pending trial.

26 This Order supplements the Court's findings at the detention hearing and serves as written
27 findings of fact and statement of reasons as required by Title 18, United States Code, Section 3142(i).

1 The Bail Reform Act of 1984 sets forth the factors the Court must consider in determining
2 whether pretrial detention is warranted. In coming to its decision, the Court has considered those
3 factors, paraphrased below:

- 4 (1) the nature and seriousness of the offense charged;
- 5 (2) the weight of the evidence against the person;
- 6 (3) the history and characteristics of the person including, among other considerations,
7 employment, past conduct and criminal history, and record of court appearances; and
- 8 (4) the nature and seriousness of the danger to any person or the community that would be posed
9 by the person's release.

10 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g).

11 The Court is persuaded by the government's argument that Mr. Branch is a danger to the
12 community. Currently, the defendant shows a continued possession of firearms and disregard for
13 probation. The Court does not take into consideration the allegations about gang membership in this decision.

14 Given the nature of the crimes as alleged, as well as the history and characteristics of the
15 defendant, the Court determines that, based on the current record, the defendant is a danger to the
16 community. Accordingly, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(i), IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 17 (1) Defendant is committed to the custody of the Attorney General for confinement in a
18 corrections facility;
- 19 (2) Defendant be afforded reasonable opportunity for private consultation with his counsel; and
- 20 (3) on order of a court of the United States or on request of an attorney for the government, the
21 person in charge of the corrections facility in which defendant is confined shall deliver defendant to an
22 authorized Deputy United States Marshal for the purpose of any appearance in connection with a court
23 proceeding.

24
25 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

26 May 18, 2021

27 
28 HON. SALLIE KIM
United States Magistrate Judge